



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

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East Helena Lead Education and Abatement Program

Play It Safe to Avoid Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly, colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. It's produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels, including coal, wood, charcoal, oil, kerosene, propane, and natural gas.

How to Prevent CO Poisoning

- Make sure appliances are installed and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions and local building codes.
- Check chimneys and flues for blockages, corrosion, partial and complete disconnections, and loose connections.
- Never operate a portable generator or any other gasoline engine-powered tool either in or near an enclosed space such as a garage, house, or other building. Even with open doors and windows, these spaces can trap CO and allow it to quickly build to lethal levels.
- Install a CO alarm in a hallway near every separate sleeping area of the home.
- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent unless it is specifically designed for use in an enclosed space and provides instructions for safe use in an enclosed area.
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
- Never use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers to heat your home.
- Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in any room where people are sleeping.
- During home renovations, ensure that appliance vents and chimneys are not blocked by tarps or debris. Make sure appliances are in proper working order when renovations are complete.

For more information on this subject, go to: www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/466.html

Call Jan or Debb at the East Helena Lead Education and Abatement Program with any questions or concerns at 457-8583 or visit them in Room 201 of East Helena City Hall.

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